

Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 3
Larry Winn
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Franklin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME				
COMMON: Franklin County Courthouse				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse square on Main street, between Third and Fourth streets				
CITY OR TOWN: Ottawa				
STATE Kansas 66067		CODE 20	COUNTY: Franklin	
			CODE 059	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments				
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious				
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Franklin county				
STREET AND NUMBER: Franklin County Courthouse				
CITY OR TOWN: Ottawa		STATE: Kansas 66067		CODE 20
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds				
STREET AND NUMBER: Franklin County Courthouse				
CITY OR TOWN: Ottawa		STATE: Kansas 66067		CODE 20
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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Kansas

COUNTY:

Franklin

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent☒ Good☐ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☐ Altered☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Franklin County Courthouse located at Ottawa is a rectangular Romanesque-influenced structure with entrances on the east and west sides. The building is three stories in height and has a full basement. The basement foundation walls, which are constructed of rough-hewn limestone blocks laid in regular horizontal courses, terminate at the first floor line in a projecting limestone belt course. Red face brick is the principal building material used for wall construction on the three stories above the stone belt line. The roof form is very complex but is basically a steep pitched hip roof with intersecting gables at the center of each of the four sides. A steeply pitched hip roof is used over each of the four corner towers. Two cupolas are located at the ends of the main hip roof. The west cupola contains a four-sided clock while the east cupola is an open four-sided bell tower. A decorative metal spine is used on all roof ridges. The roof cornice and gable overhangs are ornamented by dentils with a similar decoration on the tower. Each of the tower roofs as well as the two cupolas terminates in a decorative metal spire. A silvered statue stands on the apex of the gable over the west entrance. In addition to the roof features and the corner towers, the building has large entrance porches at the east and west facades. The porch roofs, which are supported by large brick pillars with stone bases, capitals and intermediate bands, are balconies for the second floor. First floor windows are simple rectangular openings with stone sills and lintels. The stone of the lintels is extended continuously around the building to form a band. The same is true for the sills of the second story windows. Second story windows are capped with large semicircular stone arches, which interconnect to provide a continuous stone band.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1892-1893

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Historic

☐ Agriculture

☒ Architecture

☐ Art

☐ Commerce

☐ Communications

☐ Conservation

☐ Education

☐ Engineering

☐ Industry

☐ Invention

☐ Landscape

☐ Architecture

☐ Literature

☐ Military

☐ Music

☐ Political

☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science

☐ Sculpture

☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater

☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Franklin County Courthouse in Ottawa was designed by a local architect, George P. Washburn, one of the state's most prominent early architects.

After a county seat controversy which began in 1858, Ottawa was chosen the permanent county seat on August 1, 1864. The courthouse square was purchased by the board of county commissioners from the Ottawa Town Company on March 17, 1865, for \$1,180. Although a jail was erected on the square in 1865, county offices were housed in various private business buildings until 1893. (The old jail was replaced by the present facility in 1906.)

Efforts to obtain a permanent structure for county offices began in 1884 but were unsuccessful until 1891. The state legislature of 1891 authorized the Franklin county commissioners to levy a tax not to exceed three mills for the construction of a courthouse, providing both the proposition to build a courthouse and the maximum cost of \$50,000 were approved in an election by a majority of the voters. In a special election on April 21, 1891, the question of building a courthouse carried by a vote of 1,917 to 1,106 and the maximum cost was favored by 1,963 to 1,102.

On December 30, 1891, the contract for constructing the courthouse was awarded to L. W. Divelbiss of Olathe for \$45,940. Sub-contracts were let to S. Reidy of Ottawa for the stone work, J. Jeffries and Company of Ottawa for the mill work, William Broderick of Ottawa for the painting and finishing work, A. P. Elder of Ottawa for the plumbing and heating apparatus and George Abbott of Olathe for the plastering. Architect Washburn was also the superintendent of the construction activity. According to a statement furnished by the county commissioners the total expenditure for the building was \$49,014.69. Presumably to stay inside the \$50,000 maximum cost, the report listed separately the costs of heating, plumbing, gas and electrical fixtures, furniture, filling and grading and the architect's fees. These items were listed at \$17,924.56; so with some bills yet unpaid the total expenditure for the new courthouse stood at \$66,939.25, when county officials moved into the new building in late September, 1893. Dedication ceremonies were held October 3, and the courthouse was officially accepted by the commissioners from the contractor on November 11, 1893.

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(Number all entries)

8. The Franklin County Courthouse is regarded as one of the most outstanding works of George P. Washburn, who was one of the best known 19th century Kansas architects. Courthouses were one of Washburn's specialities, and his symmetrical courthouse designs gave unique character to 13 Kansas county seat towns. The Franklin County Courthouse is considered the best-kept example of his utilization of square towers in a courthouse design.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Franklin County Historical Society, compilers, Reflections of Franklin County and Chautauqua Days (n. p., 1961), pp. 7, 8.
 "Inventory of the County Archives of Kansas--Franklin County," Historical Records Survey, Work Projects Administration (n. p., 1939), pp. 6-10.
 Lister, Rosie, "Court House Bell Faces Doom," Ottawa Herald, November 11, 1965.
Ottawa Republican, July 19, 1877.
Ottawa Weekly Herald, April 21, December 8, 1892; July 27, October 5, 1893.
Ottawa Weekly Republican, December 3, 31, 1891; January 7, 14, February 4, 1892; September 21, October 5, 1893.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 36' 48"	95° 16' 04"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant Richard Pankratz, Planner	
ORGANIZATION		DATE	
Kansas State Historical Society		October 14, 1971	
STREET AND NUMBER:			
120 West Tenth street			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	CODE
Topeka		Kansas 66612	20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name Nyle H. Miller
Nyle H. Miller

Title Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society

Date December 2, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS